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## POLISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE SIX-YEAR PLAN

Jan Dab-Kociol

Poland's Three-Year Economic Plan foresaw an increase of 58 percent over 1946 in the value of agricultural production. The plan was exceeded with an actual increase of 68 percent, an excellent achievement considering the peculiar character and obsolete methods of Polish agriculture.

The harvest plan was exceeded 22 percent in rye, 8 percent in wheat, 12 percent in potatoes, 11 percent in sugar beets, 56 percent in fibrous plants, etc.

Several factors were responsible for these results: (1) an increase of 200 percent in the supply of fertilizer as compared with the prewar period, (2) adequate supply of seed, and selected seed supplied at the price of grain for consumers, and (3) mechanization of agriculture (by 1949, 16,000 tractors were in operation, 2,700 village machine centers and 400 branches were activated).

Polish agriculture was already well on the way to mechanization during the Three-Year Plan. In the 1949 fall season, all the drills of the machine centers were being utilized, which was not the case in previous years.

Livestock production in Poland has now reached 70 percent of prewar production -- cattle 60 percent, horses 81 percent, hogs 78 percent, etc. The over-all plan for livestock production was completed and in some categories even exceeded. In the production of horses, the plan was exceeded by 3 percent, cattle 22 percent, cows 13 percent, and sheep 48 percent. The production plan for hogs was the only one not achieved.

It is apparent that agricultural production has not yet reached the prewar level, but considering the immense destruction suffered by agriculture -- the loss of 60 percent of its livestock and increase in fallow lands, which in 1945 reached 7,500,000 hectares -- it can be said that the peasants are making a great contribution to the rebuilding of Poland. On the whole, agricultural



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production developed faster than the Plan for Economic Reconstruction foresaw, but some branches of production developed faster than others as a result of inadequate coordination between the farmer and planned economy. The peasant continues to give priority to rye and neglects wheat.

The result is that Poland is overproducing rye, exporting the surplus, and importing wheat because of inadequate domestic production. Considering that wheat yields a larger crop and is three times higher in price, this is difficult to understand. Furthermore, in many wojewodztwos -- Kielce, Poznan, Rzeszow, Lodz, and Warsaw -- the soil is very favorable for growing wheat. In Lublin Wojewodztwo, the area sown to wheat could be increased by 100,000 hectares. If wheat areas are increased, imports will be eliminated and the peasants' income will increase accordingly. The same is true of barley.

Despite the great increase in production, a shortage of meat still exists. Since the production of hogs per capita has reached prewar level and export as compared with the prewar is practically nonexistent, what is the reason for the shortage?

The great increase in the number of industrial workers and their higher standard of living require a greater supply of meat and fats. Improvements in the material welfare of the rural population as a result of the distribution of 6 million hectares of land, larger peasant incomes, and a higher standard of living increase the demand for meat and fats. Although there is more meat per capita than there was before the war, the greater demand causes a shortage. The situation could be improved by increased production of beef, not yet at prewar level due to a slow increase in cattle and an injunction against the slaughter of milch cows. The demand for milk and butter is also increasing and production has not reached prewar levels.

To improve the supply of meat, milk, and fats, it is necessary to expand forage bases, to improve the stock through better feeding and fattening methods, to expand the network of dairies and milk-collection centers facilitating delivery of milk for the farmer, and to interest the farmer in raising thoroughbred stock by increasing the payment for such stock. To increase the milk yield, the number of good milch cows must be increased.

Under the Six-Year Plan, the growth of agricultural production must be much faster than it was under the Three-Year Plan, or industrial production will be retarded and realization of the Six-Year Plan impossible.

The metals, machine, and electrical industries are especially important to agriculture. Therefore, in addition to the existing tractor plant, which will be greatly enlarged, another tractor plant and plants for the manufacture of binders, harvesters, etc., will be activated. It is expected that yearly tractor production in 1955 will reach 10,000-12,000 tractors. Many farm machines previously unknown or not produced in Poland, such as motorized mowers, grain dryers, beet combines, milking machines, and fruit sorters, will be put into production. It is also expected that the value of farm machine production in 1955 will exceed the value of 1949 production by 250 percent, calculated in prewar zlotys.

In the chemical industry, the greatest emphasis will be placed on the production of fertilizer. Production of nitrogenous fertilizer in 1955 will increase 350 percent, and production of phosphorous fertilizer will increase 400 percent over 1949 with the discovery of large deposits of potassium compounds in Poland. Domestic production of potassium fertilizers will be activated to reduce imports.



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In the automotive industry, annual production of motor trucks is expected to reach 15,000 and of passenger cars 7,000 - 10,000 in 1955. The truck production will satisfy agriculture's constantly increasing demand for transportation.

Agricultural production will have to keep step with industrial production.

It is expected that in 1955, per capita consumption of certain foods will increase 20 - 30 percent as compared with 1949. The agricultural industry also supplies raw material for many industries -- sugar, alcohol, tobacco, textiles, meat, fats, etc. Agriculture must also produce a surplus for export.

Domestic production will not be able to supply the demands of expanding industry and agriculture. A certain volume of machinery and raw materials will have to be imported, and, as the economy expands, these imports will also increase. It is imperative that exports of agricultural products increase to balance these imports.

To achieve these goals, agricultural production in the 6-year period will have to exceed 1949 production by 45 percent -- crops by 34 percent and livestock by 66 percent. The average yield of grain per hectare will have to be increased by 4 quintals, and the increase in livestock will have to be an additional two to every three head.

State Farms, which constitute about 10 percent of the area, are expected to increase their productivity. Small and medium farmers will receive more assistance than formerly. The increased number of voluntary agricultural producers' cooperatives will exert a great influence in raising agricultural production.

The method of sowing will also be changed. Intensive cultivation of industrial plants, root crops, forage crops, and legumes which are rich in proteins will replace the extensive cultivation of rye and potatoes. Crop planning will be basically changed. Because of the strong emphasis in the Six-Year Plan on increased livestock production, forage will have to be increased greatly through the cultivation of forage crops and all mixtures. Since the forage supply is expected to be the bottleneck of the plan, a great effort to increase the crop yield of meadows and pastures must be made. Cultivation of rye and oats on better soils will be reduced gradually. The area sown to oats and barley will be increased wherever the soil is suitable. The area sown to grains will be 10 percent less in 1955 than in 1949.

The area sown to forage crops will be increased 150 percent. The area sown to industrial crops -- sugar beets, flax, hemp, and oleaginous plants -- will be increased almost 200 percent, and that sown to legumes, more than 200 percent as compared with 1949.

The reduction of the area sown to grains will not mean a smaller crop. It is planned to increase the yield per hectare to such an extent that production will equal that of 1949 and the prewar period.

It is expected that in 1955, the yield from one hectare will be increased 36 percent for grain, 33 percent for fibrous plants, 55 percent for oleaginous plants, 43 percent for sugar beets, etc.

Livestock in 1955 is expected to reach 9,500,000 head, an increase of 56 percent over the present number. The number of cows will increase to 6,460,000, an increase of almost 60 percent over 1949. With the larger numbers and increased weight of stock, production of beef is expected to increase 250 percent. Production of milk will increase 200 percent over 1949 and the yearly milk yield per cow will be increased to 1,900 liters by 1955, through proper selection, feeding, and care.



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By 1955, the number of hogs should increase to at least 9,200,000, 56 percent over the 1949 figure; production of pork and fats will increase accordingly.

The number of sheep is expected to increase 60 percent by 1955.

Poultry production, which has already exceeded prewar production, will be expanded more than 20 percent. Emphasis will be placed on increased egg production through proper feeding and care and on the increase in live weight of poultry. Turkey production will be improved and expanded for export.

A greater part of the egg production, which will increase almost one third over 1949, will be used for domestic consumption.

Quality rather than quantity will be emphasized in the breeding of horses, since the supply of tractors and engines for agriculture has been increased.

The cultivation of fruits and vegetables previously neglected in Poland will be increased in 1955. It is expected that the fruit and vegetable crop will increase 50 percent over the 1949 crop. Processing of fruit and vegetables will be expanded in 1955 to about 300 percent more than the volume processed at present.

Coordination between distribution of crop areas and production plans will be an important factor in increasing crop yield. Crop-area planning is the allocation of specific areas to certain crops to assure qualitative and quantitative results. For instance, the southern areas of the country are assigned for orchards, while flax and hemp will be grown in Bialystok where the soil is more suitable and the people are familiar with its cultivation. Areas containing natural pasturelands, such as Olsztyn, Gdansk, and Bialystok, will be assigned to livestock production.

Great emphasis will also be placed on the expansion of silos. The use of silos, so prevalent in neighboring countries but not appreciated in Poland, will be encouraged by the allocation of convenient credit terms for silo construction. In addition, drying sheds and plants for processing fish, bones, blood, etc. for admixtures to forage will also be built. However, the increased production of greens, root crops, and forage crops will not solve the problem of forage without adequate production of hay. Meadows and pastures must be improved, or the problem of increased livestock production will not be solved.

Poland has more than 4,000 meadows and pastures, mostly marshy and neglected, which produce a crop of sour hay or grass of little value. The average yield per hectare is just a few quintals of hay, whereas with improvements, the yield would be 60 quintals or more. With increased yield, the expense of improving the land is recovered in a few years.

The state has allocated billions of zlotys for land improvement, but it cannot solve the problem without the farmer's help. The rural areas must mobilize all available manpower, especially youth, to join the campaign.

Although the soil-conservation campaign covers the entire country, the greatest effort will be expended in the Bialystok, Olsztyn, Warsaw, Lublin, and Rzeszow Wojewodztwos. Very often, lands which have been drained and improved are later neglected and allowed to revert to their original state with a great loss to the state. The state will issue new laws on conservation, making the user responsible for the upkeep of drained and improved lands.

The tractor park will increase, in 1955, to 60,000 tractors. Seventy-five percent of the sowing on individual farms and 100 percent on state farms will be mechanized. Much of the harvesting will be done by machines, such as binders,



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harvesters, and combines, which were introduced in Poland for the first time in 1949. Electric motors will be used widely for threshing, cleaning, and sorting, and it is expected that by 1955 even electric tractors, very economical to operate, will be used. It is also expected that more efficient manure storage will be adopted to reduce the present waste. Selected seed will be used more widely and special pretreatment of seed will be generally introduced.

A new system of crop rotation will be introduced gradually to assure continued use of the Williams method of field grass cultivation based on a certain order in crop rotation for grasses and legumes.

Cultivation of new plants or plants seldom grown in Poland -- soybeans, corn, tannin plants, rubber medicinal plants, and even cotton and rice -- will be increased.

A score of agricultural research institutes specializing in different branches of agriculture and a network of experimental stations will be built. These institutions will be provided with land and equipment for experiments. The latest results will be disseminated through the State Farm Administration. Research and experiments will cover vernalization for the purpose of cultivating winter grain in the spring and planting potatoes in the summer, plant cultivation, development of improved varieties of wheat, acclimatization of new plants, the problem of sterility in animals, artificial insemination of animals, the use of substitutes for fuel, and the improvement of farm machines and equipment.

The development of agricultural education is extremely important. All rural youth in the Service for Poland Organization, as of 1950, will be obliged to take farm training for a period of 2 years, and on completion will receive a Grade I certificate called the "agrominimum." In addition, about 90 schools will be activated to train older farmers. This course will last from 6 to 11 months and will also lead to a Grade I certificate. For youths who have completed the primary grades, there are schools on a lyceum level which specialize in various branches of agriculture. Graduates of this school will receive the title of agrotechnician, Grade II, and will be eligible for advanced agricultural schools. Sons and daughters of small and medium farmers are eligible for these schools, and scholarships facilitate education for those who cannot afford it.

Correspondence courses in the State Correspondence Institute conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform are provided for those who cannot attend the other courses.

Immense financial resources will be required to realize the Six-Year Plan. Investments allotted for agriculture in the Six-Year Plan are 700 percent greater than those expended in the Three-Year Plan and many times greater than those of 1949.

Eighty percent of the sums allocated for investments in the Six-Year Plan will be utilized for construction in the socialized sector.

As compared with 1949, expenditures will increase 60 times in rural construction, 15 times in mechanization, 17 times in soil conservation, 8 times in livestock, 22 times in veterinary science, and 65 times in electrification. The state has also allocated immense sums for industries connected with agriculture -- the machine industry, the fertilizer industry, and farm-produce-processing industries. In addition to the investment sums and sums allocated in the administrative budget, the state will allot large sums in the form of short-term credits. These will be issued to farmers through village cooperative banks.



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The Samopomoc Chlopska (Peasant Self-Help), Union has an important part in the realization of the Six-Year Plan. The union's locals must organize work competition and must oppose every effort to limit the creative efforts of the villages. They must work to raise the technical level of the peasant masses and make the village conscious of the great possibilities of social, economic, and cultural development. The union locals should promote capable peasants to positions of instructors and managers in the State Farm Administration and other farm institutions.

The ZSL (United Peasant Party) together with the United Workers' Party ought to organize and direct the group effort of the village in the realization of the plan.

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